GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2870
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2007
UNIFORM STD CALL RATE .SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE
Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao;Gawali Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao;Murmu Shri Hemlal

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ISD/STD call rates has been decreased recently by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total annual loss to the BSNL/MTNL due to such decrease of call rates;

(d) whether the services given to the customers are being curtailed due to such decrease in call rates and more connections are being provided by these mobile operators against existing capacity;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to provide better network to the mobile/cellular customers;

(g) whether the Government proposes to uniform S.T.D. call rate for basic telephone line in the country;

(h) if so, the details thereof;

(i) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(j) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) No, Sir. The STD/ISD call rates have not been decreased recently by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL).

(b) & (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) & (e) No, Sir. The services to the customers are not curtailed, as on 30.6.2007, BSNL provided 28.42 million Global System for Mobile (GSM) connections against the radio capacity of 28.24 million while MTNL provided 2.6 million GSM connections against the radio capacity of 2.3 million. However, the network performance depends on the actual usage by the subscribers at any given point of time. Presently, the service is working satisfactorily and is, in general, meeting the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

(f) The GSM based cellular mobile network is continuously optimized for its performance and monitoring of the network has been strengthened to ensure performance as per the QoS parameters prescribed by TRAI. The said network is also progressively augmented to enhance the capacity, coverage and QoS.

(g) There is no proposal at present for uniform STD call rate for basic service telephones in the country.

(h) Does not arise in view of (g) above.

(i) Tariff of telecom service in the country are governed by the frame work laid down in the Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO), 1999 as amended from time to time. As per the existing provisions of TTO tariff of telecom services are under forbearance except with regard to fixed line service in rural area, national roaming service in cellular mobile service and leased line service. Service providers are free to offer any tariff suiting to the requirements of the customers.

(j) Does not arise in view of
(i) above.